



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Lesotho Country Brief May 2022



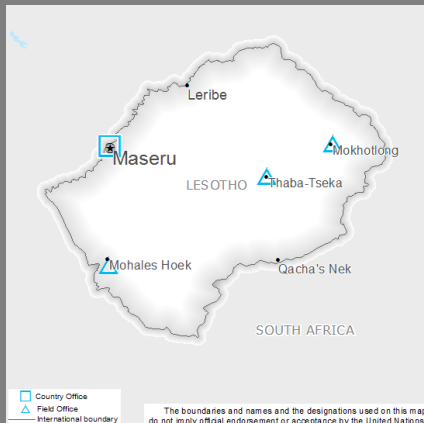
Operational Context

Lesotho is a small mountainous landlocked country with a population of 2.2 million people. About 57 percent of Lesotho's population live on less than one dollar per day.

The population's high vulnerability is exacerbated by a low performing economy and recurring climatic hazards, including droughts, floods and early frost. Twenty-nine percent of people below the age of 35 are unemployed. The country is also characterized by a high HIV prevalence rate (25.6 percent: 30.4 percent for women and 20.8 for men ages 18 - 35), with care needed for more than 250,000 orphaned children, most of whom lost their parents to AIDS. Life expectancy stands at 49 years.

Agriculture, which contributes seven percent of GDP, is a major source of livelihood for 80 percent of the population living in rural areas. WFP supports the Government's efforts in building the resilience of communities frequently affected by climatic hazards, with the view to stimulating agricultural production.

WFP has been present in Lesotho since 1962.



Population: **2.2 million**

2019 Human Development Index: **165 out of 189**

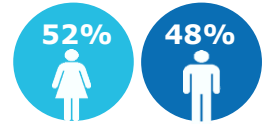
Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **33% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

US\$ 12 m six months (June-Nov 2022) net funding requirements, represent 71% of total requirements.

57,140 people targeted in May 2022



Operational Updates

Activity 1: Crisis response

- The activity is currently on hold following the end of the 2020/2021 lean season and is planned to resume in October at the start of the upcoming lean season. Preparations are ongoing for the response (October 2022 - March 2023) and, with available funding, the plan is to assist a total of 13,000 people which represents 8 percent of the total number of people planned to be reached under this activity. The targeted people will be assisted either through cash or commodity vouchers.

Activity 2: School Feeding

- WFP continues to provide meals to 50,000 learners (26,000 girls) in 2,000 Early Childhood Care Development Centres (ECCDs) across the country. To address high rates of micronutrient deficiencies in the country, specifically among school age children, WFP worked with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security and the Ministry of Education and Training to advocate for the construction of vegetable gardens at the ECCDs to complement the food basket provided by WFP. A total of 73 ECCDs have been sensitized, and present during the sensitizations were the ECCD caregivers, parents, and community chiefs. Following these sensitizations, the ECCD centres will be constructing gardens for the production of vegetables.
- WFP continues to provide technical and financial support to the Ministry of Education and Training to implement a sustainable, nutrition-sensitive national home-grown school feeding programme. For the programme to be sustainable, it must be linked to the local agricultural production.

Activity 3: Strengthening technical capacity of the Government on early warning systems

- Urban preparedness project:** Lesotho is selected as one of the four countries to pilot the Regional Urban Preparedness project funded by the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO). WFP works with the Disaster Management Authority to pilot the project in five selected urban councils for which vulnerability profiles are to be developed. The project pursues five objectives to create a better understanding of the context of vulnerabilities of urban residents and create a set of tools that can provide a swift and effective response system. Currently, the coordination team continues to conduct discussions with district teams, community key informants and other community entities to identify drivers of vulnerability and establish a minimum expenditure basket.

Photo: A beneficiary collects her food parcels at a distribution point in Thaba-tseka district. WFP/Morongoe Masilo

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Country Strategic Plan (July 2019-June 2024)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
123.6 m	50.8 m	12 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Sock affected people in Lesotho are able to meet their food and nutrition needs during times of crisis.

Focus area: Crisis Response

Activities:

- **Activity 1:** Provide cash and/or food transfers to populations affected by shocks.

Strategic Result 2: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 2: Vulnerable populations in Lesotho benefit from strengthened social protection systems that ensure access to adequate, safe and nutritious food all year round

Focus area: Root Causes

Activities:

- **Activity 2:** Support the Government in evidence-based planning, design, management and implementation of gender responsive social protection programmes, including by handing over the home-grown school meals programme.
- **Activity 3:** Strengthen technical capacity of the Government in early warning, food and nutrition security monitoring and vulnerability assessment and analysis through forecast-based financing approaches

Strategic Result 3: End Malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 3: Vulnerable populations in Lesotho have improved nutritional status, at each stage of the lifecycle, in line with national targets by 2024.

Focus area: Root Causes

Activities:

- **Activity 4:** Provide capacity strengthening to the Government and other actors with regard to multi-sectoral coordination, planning, evidence-building and implementation of equitable nutrition policies and programmes.

Strategic Result 4: Sustainable Food Systems

Strategic Outcome #: Communities in targeted areas, especially women and youth, have resilient, efficient and inclusive food systems by 2024.

Focus area: Resilience Building

Activities:

- **Activity 5:** Support the design and implementation of assets that are nutritionally relevant to improve and diversify the livelihoods of vulnerable communities and households affected by climate change and land degradation.
- **Activity 6:** Provide technical support to smallholder farmers and other value chain actors, particularly women, in climate-smart agriculture, food quality and safety, marketing of nutritious foods and financial services

Activity 3 continued

Geospatial platform: WFP is providing technical support to the Prime Minister's Office to develop a governing system which aims to assist the Government to set up a National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI). The platform will enhance evidence-based decision making on programme implementation and coordination among development partners and the Government.

Activity 4: Nutrition

- WFP is collaborating with the Smallholder Agricultural Development Project (SADP) II for implementation of nutrition component in line with the overall objective of SADP that is meant to support increased adoption of climate smart agricultural technologies in Lesotho's agriculture, enhance commercialization and improve dietary diversity among targeted people. WFP will provide sensitizations to farmers with focus on improving nutrition across three key areas: i) Improving the availability of safe, affordable, nutritious foods; ii) improving access to nutritious foods; and iii) improving demand for and consumption of nutritious foods. The SADP II project is implemented by the Government of Lesotho with financial support from the World Bank, Government of Japan and the international Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

Activity 5: Resilience

- WFP supports the design and implementation of nutrition-sensitive assets such as livestock rearing, construction of communal gardens at community level and keyhole gardens at household level to improve and diversify the livelihoods of vulnerable communities and households affected by climate change and land degradation. WFP continues to implement shock responsive and results oriented Food Assistance for Assets activities across 21 project sites in the southern districts of, Mafeteng, Mohale's Hoek and Quthing, targeting a total of 7,140 people. As part of creating assets that increase people's adaptive capacity and resilience to climatic shocks, WFP procure non-food items for 1,667 people participating in the FFA activities. These items include bee boxes, solar food drier, and canning bottles.
- WFP hosted an environmental and social sustainability expert mission to assess relevant capacities at country office management and field offices level as well as among main cooperating partners to support the implementation of and compliance with WFP's and donors' environmental and social safeguards in all phases of project design, implementation and monitoring. The mission is part of the environmental and social sustainability framework which serves as WFP's principal plan to increase the environmental and social sustainability of its programme activities, support operations, and interactions with partners.

Activity 6: Support to smallholder farmers

- WFP works in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security and the Ministry of Education and Training to link 300 vulnerable smallholder farmers (SHFs) from selected areas within Mohale's hoek and Quthing districts with private sector entities that supply schools with food. Preparations are underway to provide trainings in basic marketing, pricing and packaging, food preservation and processing in efforts to building the capacity of the smallholder farmers in post-harvest handling and quality assurance to meet market demands.

Challenges

- WFP continues to face a debilitating funding shortfall for activity 1, activity 2 and activity 5 under the Country Strategic Plan - USD 12 million is required to support those in need.

Donors

ECHO, Germany, Japan.